

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OECD P 25891 01 OF 02 000001Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-06 EA-10 FRB-01 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-03 SIL-01 SWF-01

OMB-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-05

L-02 TAR-01 AGR-10 OIC-02 STR-04 /107 W

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R 312338Z OCT 74

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 4122

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 25891

DEPT PASS COMMERCE AND MARAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, OECD

SUBJECT: MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING, OCT.23-24

REF: OECD DAF/MTC/74.42

1. SUMMARY: COMMITTEE SPENT MAJORITY OF MEETING DISCUSSING COMPATIBILITY OF UN CONVENTION ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES WITH OECD LIBERALIZATION CODE. AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, FRG, JAPAN AND SPAIN CONTINUE TO ARGUE THAT CODES ARE COMPATIBLE WHEREAS UK, GREECE, AND SCANDINAVIANS CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THAT THE CODES ARE NOT COMPATIBLE. US STRESSED LINER CODE CONFERRED COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES ON NATIONAL CARRIERS TO DETRIMENT OF CROSS-TRADERS, AND SUGGESTED LEAVING TO INVISIBLES COMMITTEE ALONE DECISION WHETHER THIS VIOLATED INVISIBLES CODE. UK AND SCANDINAVIANS INDICATED CONCERN OVER PROPOSED US ENERGY TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT. END SUMMARY.

2. DOCUMENT DAF/MTC/74.42 USED AS BASIS FOR DIS-
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PAGE 02 OECD P 25891 01 OF 02 000001Z

CUSSION ON COMPATIBILITY OF LN CONVENTION AND OECD CODE

OF LIBERALIZATION. US ARGUED THAT MANDATORY NATURE OF CARGO-SHARING PROVISIONS (ARTICLE 2) AND ALSO MEMBERSHIP (ARTICLE 1) AND THE NECESSITY FOR IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION (ARTICLE 4) CONFER COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES ON NATIONAL CARRIERS OVER CROSS-TRADERS. US DEL STATED THAT IF MTC COULD AGREE ON THIS LIMITED POSITION, CONSENSUS COULD BE SENT TO INVISIBLES COMMITTEE FOR THEIR DECISION ON INCOMPATIBILITY.

3. FRANCE ARGUED THAT CARGO-SHARING PROVISIONS WERE NOT MANDATORY AND THEREFORE CODES WERE NOT INCOMPATIBLE. FRENCH VIEW STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY FRG, JAPAN, SPAIN AND, TO A LESSER DEGREE, AUSTRALIA. NETHERLANDS MAINTAINED THAT MTC SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON TECHNICAL RATHER THAN LEGAL ISSUES.

4. NORWEGIAN, DANISH, SWEDISH AND GREEK INTERVENTIONS WERE ESPECIALLY SHARP IN CRITICISM OF EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS SUPPORTING CODE. EXAMPLE FROM NORWAY: "WOULD FRANCE EXPLAIN WHY IT AGREED TO A CODE EXCLUDING NORWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN SEA TRANSPORT TRADE INVOLVING FRANCE?" GERMAN AND FRENCH DELEGATIONS, RUFFLED BY CRITICISM (AND APPARENTLY INTENSE PRESSURES BEING APPLIED BEHIND SCENES), NOTED AT SEVERAL POINTS THAT FINAL DECISION ON SIGNATURE AS WELL AS RATIFICATION HAD NOT YET BEEN TAKEN. JAPAN TOOK SAME LINE.

5. COMMITTEE AGREED THAT FULL REPORT OF DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO INVISIBLES COMMITTEE FOR ITS CONSIDERATION, BUT OTHERWISE REACHED NO AGREEMENTS.

6. DISCUSSION OF SHIPPING POLICY MATTERS (DAF/MTC/74.23) HIGHLIGHTED BY UK AND SCANDINAVIAN CONCERN OVER PENDING

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PAGE 01 OECD P 25891 02 OF 02 312352Z

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 OECD PARIS 25891

"ENERGY TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT" (SEPTEL). US INFORMED COMMITTEE OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS WITH RESPECT TO US-USSR MARITIME AGREEMENT, PROPOSED INTERMODAL DEEP PORT AND FREIGHT RATE LEGISLATION, AND FMC GENERAL ORDER DEALING WITH DOCUMENTATION.

7. COMMITTEE AGREED WITH WORK ASSIGNMENTS AND TIME-TABLE SUGGESTED BY SECRETARIAT FOR 1974 ANNUAL REPORT IN DOCUMENT DAF/MTC/74.43. HOWEVER, DUE TO STAFFING PROBLEMS IN SECRETARIAT, COMMITTEE GENERALLY AGREED THAT SPECIAL CHAPTER COULD BE OMITTED IN 1974 REPORT. COMMITTEE ALSO AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO SUBMIT FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE INSURANCE STUDY TO THE INSURANCE COMMITTEE.

8. NEXT SESSION OF MTC SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 23-24, 1975. SPECIAL GROUP ON FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE SCHEDULED TO MEET JANUARY 25, 1975. SPECIAL GROUP ON UNCTAD WILL MEET DECEMBER 17 TO PREPARE FOR UNCTAD WORKING GROUP UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 OECD P 25891 02 OF 02 312352Z

ON INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING LEGISLATION MEETING (JAN.27-FEB.7, 1975) ON CHARTER PARTIES.
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